

brought in direct contact with the stomach. (b) There is evidence that its exhibition, by the stomach, or hypodermatically, increases the number of respirations. (c) There is evidence that its exhibition, by the stomach or hypodermatically, has an appreciable effect upon the circulatory system, as seen by the dilatation of the vessels of the ears and by the direct effect upon the blood. (6) It is not a reliable antidote, because (a) there is no proof that when it is given after the absorption of the morphine, it is, *per se*, a reliable antidote. (b) There is evidence that when it is given after the absorption of the morphine it is an unreliable antidote. (c) There is proof that when it is given after the absorption of the morphine it has no apparent effect. (7) It, like strychnine, caffeine, and atropine, has some valuable properties, useful in the treatment of morphine-poisoning, but as yet undetermined. "Proof" and "evidence" are not intended to be synonymous, the former being positive, the latter relative.—*Therapeutic Gazette*, 1895, No. 10, p. 561.

He also reports on the value of caffeine, as shown in a single case, male adult, who had swallowed fifteen grains of Dover's powder. Two hours after ingestion, an emetic not being at hand, he received $\frac{3}{5}$ of a grain of nitroglycerin, 4 minims of tincture of digitalis, 4 minims of tincture of strophanthus, and 5 minims of tincture of belladonna. In less than twenty minutes the pulse improved greatly in character. Now 6 grains of caffeine were given with great improvement in coma, pupils, pulse, and respirations.—*Ibid.*, 1895, No. 11, p. 732.

THE DANGER OF CARBOLIC ACID IN ENEMATA.

DR. HERLYN reports a single case where a 3 per cent. solution of carbolic acid was used as a rectal by mistake for a vaginal injection. Fainting followed, the respiration was superficial and slow, the pulse 30 to 35 per minute, there were isolated clonic spasms, and the pupils were without reaction. About seven ounces of the solution, containing ninety grains of carbolic acid, had been used. After repeated injections of ether the pulse became stronger and the patient recovered consciousness, the night was restless, there was a profuse muco-sanguinolent diarrhoea and the stools were of the odor of carbolic acid; the urine was not characteristic. Recovery followed in five or six days.—*Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*, 1895, No. 41, S. 683.

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

DR. GEORGE A. PECK reports from the Mount Vernon branch of the New York Infant Asylum: After a period of twenty-one months free from the disease a patient was attacked after a residence of twelve days. From this came other cases until within a little more than six months there were twenty-two cases with fifteen deaths. The number of cases now began to increase until for three successive months there were in each month thirty or more cases. At about the middle of the last month forty-two children whose throats contained the [Klebs-]Loeffler bacillus were selected and removed to one of the buildings, and to one-half of this number 150 units of Behring's antitoxin II. were given. No cases of diphtheria developed in either series during one month, but at the expiration of that time one of the boys who had received an injection of antitoxin was attacked by the disease. In the meanwhile the

epidemic was persisting among the other children, and about the middle of the month two hundred and twenty-four children were inoculated with the same serum, 100 to 200 units, according to age. Among these cases there appeared seven cases of diphtheria. Six weeks from the time of the last, a second general inoculation was given, and two hundred and forty-five children received the Board of Health antitoxin, 125 to 225 units. From this inoculation there was a period of complete immunity for over four and one-half weeks. The antitoxin apparently exerted no influence upon the bacillus itself. The ill-effects from the antitoxin were limited to a few cases of pronounced urticaria after both general inoculations, and a few needle abscesses after the first, consequent upon haste. Constitutional symptoms with temperature, etc., were almost *nil*.—*New York Medical Record*, 1895, No. 1276, p. 486.

ACETANILID-POISONING.

DR. RANDLE C. ROSENBERGER reports a single case, an Italian child, sixteen days old, suffering from hemorrhage from the umbilicus. A paroxysmal cough made the hemorrhage worse. A powder of equal parts of boric acid and acetanilid was to be locally applied twice daily. Three days after the face was distinctly cyanotic, the lips, ears, finger-tips, and toes bluish, the hands and feet cold, the breathing bordering upon stertor. The powder was discontinued and $\frac{3}{16}$ grain of strychnine sulphate with ten drops of brandy in water were given four times daily. Within forty-eight hours the cyanosis had disappeared, the hands and feet were warm, the child was much brighter, and the hemorrhage had not recurred.—*The Philadelphia Polyclinic*, 1895, No. 45, p. 460.

THYROID FEEDING.

DR. LEWIS C. BRUCE reports a second series of sixty cases. The majority of cases chosen for treatment were unfavorable, and all had received, without apparent benefit, the best dietetic and therapeutic treatment which the Royal Edinburgh Asylum could give. There were several most gratifying results in the shape of recoveries, where patients threatened to pass into confirmed dementia, or had remained stuporous for long periods, as in one case of two years' standing. Whether its action is due to the febrile process induced by the thyroid and the subsequent reaction to the fever, the answer is made that the actual and visible result of thyroid feeding has all the appearance of a condition induced by a toxin introduced into the blood through the medium of the mucous membrane of the stomach, and it undoubtedly produces a mild feverish condition, the action and reaction to which is often of considerable benefit to the patient. It is also a direct cerebral stimulant which may prove to be an advantageous treatment in cases whose higher cortical cells remain in an anergic condition after acute attacks of insanity. There is also strong probability that at some periods of life the administration of thyroid supplies some substance necessary to the bodily economy.—*Journal of Mental Science*, 1895, No. 139, p. 636.

DR. WILHELM KNOEFFELMACHER has made use of thyroid extract in tablet form in twenty-two cases of struma. The duration of the treatment